# The Nebraska Numismatic Association

# Journal

The Official publication of the
Nebraska Numismatic Association

April / May / June 2008

Volume 52 Issue 2

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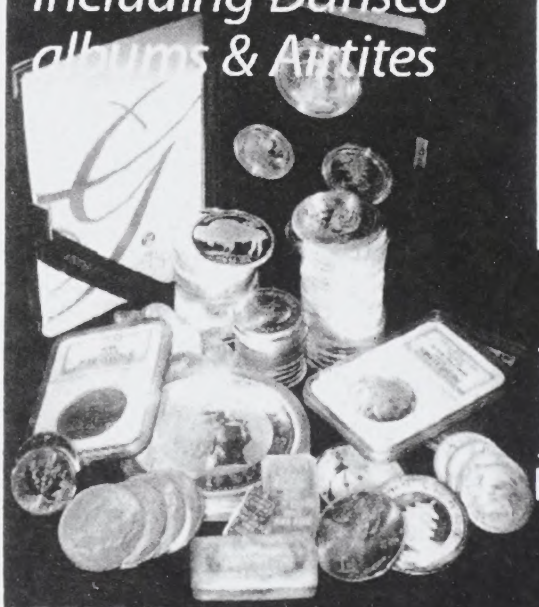

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The Nebraska Numismatic Association

# Journal

The Official Publication of the N. N.A.

## -In This Issue-

Page 3 - "My 2 Cents" - *"We're all in this together"*
Page 7 - "The Reverse" - Letters to the Editor
Inside back cover - Nebraska Coin Clubs Directory
Page 15 - **Important Notice to all NNA members and Advertisers regarding dues and fees!**

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**Mitch Ernst / Editor**

# "My 2 Cents"

## *"We're all in this together"*

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Mitch Ernst and I am the new editor of the ***Journal.*** There are many different categories by which people want to be identified in this hobby of ours. There are dealers, collectors, numismatists, YN's, and any other number of labels we would like to be known by. The way I like to define myself, however, is "Hobbyist". Oh, I enjoy collecting, studying and learning about the history and varieties of our coinage. To be honest though, I love this hobby! I appreciate what it has meant and done for both my son and myself; the friends we've made, the opportunities we've had, and the achievements we've gained. This is a GREAT hobby! Don't confuse my enthusiasm for naiveté however.

There are problems, to be sure, with the hobby on the national, regional, state and local level. Some are caused by the times we live in, other problems are self-inflicted. How do I know? I'm involved in each in varying ways and I see how the emergence of the internet has threatened the very existence of coin shows and coin clubs. Online auctions have literally taken the middleman out of the equation for many collectors as they can bid and buy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on anything from what is often euphemistically called modern "crap" on one end of the spectrum, to "ultra classic rarities" on the other. Online coin forums let collectors and dealers alike converse and share on current, historical and future trends in the market without having to rent a table or find a parking spot. For collectors, both venues allow access to people, places and coins, that, before the internet, was only reserved for a special few industry insiders. To top it off, all this is available in the comfort of their homes without having to deal with the "old curmudgeons" the hobby is so famously known for. So, why attend a show or join a club?

That's where we come in. "We" meaning Nebraska's numismatists. Like the picture on the cover of this issue of the **Journal**, each of us, are like a piece of a puzzle. No one will see what the whole picture is, however, unless we realize ***"we're all in this together."*** People don't know what we have to offer, or, for that matter, what they are missing because we haven't told them. Maybe a better way to put it is, ...we haven't *sold* them. What kind of presence are we projecting?

Let me use myself and my son as an example. When we became interested in coin collecting a few years ago, as a "father and son hobby", I didn't even know there was a coin club or coin shows in the city we live in, not to mention a state-wide organization. If that happened to us, it makes me wonder how many other fathers and sons, families and collectors in general that has happened to as well? Do numismatic organizations have the luxury of being so cryptic and difficult to contact?

Article II of the NNA Constitution states: *"The **objects** of this organization shall be to advance the knowledge of numismatics along educational, historical, and scientific lines in all its various branches; to assist in bringing about better cooperation between all persons interested in coinage, circulation, classification, sales, exhibition, use and preservation of all coins, bills, and medals; to acquire and disseminate trustworthy information bearing upon these topics; to promote greater popular interest in the science of numismatology, and for the particular purpose of bringing numismatists of Nebraska into closer relations with one another, and of promoting friendly feelings for one another through social intercourse, the interchange of ideas and discussions of mutual interest…".*

It's to those ends that I will endeavor to work as editor of the ***Journal***. There are enough reasons, hard feelings, blame, drubbings, failures, personality conflicts, accusations, insinuations, to go around as to why, when and where the hobby in general and the NNA in particular has retrogressed. But we're all in this boat together and believe it or not, we all need each other. We may joke, criticize, rain on other people's parades, but really in the end, it's our common enjoyment of little metal

disks of all shapes, sizes, dates and compositions that draw and keep us together. Let's emphasize what we have in common!

Personally, I wish I could be like what is so often said of Will Rogers, *"I never met a man I didn't like."*, because to be honest, there have been a few people I've met, since becoming involved in this hobby, that I haven't! ***But,*** that doesn't mean I can't learn something from and appreciate something about that person. Like pieces to a puzzle, no two look alike, but they all fit together.

When I was approached about taking on the responsibility of becoming editor of the ***Journal***, I was asked to keep the articles related to Nebraska Numismatics. Frankly, that thought frightened me. Nebraska Numismatics is an awfully shallow pond to keep dropping a line into expecting to catch a keeper. However, after reading the *"object"* of the NNA in the Constitution I had an idea for the direction that I could go and fulfill that promise, at least until that pond dries up. But, I need your help and the help of every club in this state.

Beginning next issue, I want to do a series on the active coin clubs currently in Nebraska: when they were organized, famous/accomplished members, club and individual achievements (even dubious ones), current meeting times, locations along with contact, dues and membership information. I know much of the historical information I just mentioned has already been touched on in Steve Drakes and John Veach's "***Coin Club Issues of Nebraska"*** © 1994. After reading through it, their book acquainted me with all of the interesting history Nebraska's clubs possess as well as the numismatic interest and activity Nebraska's Clubs once enjoyed. I feel however, after attending shows, being active in clubs and numismatic associations and now after reading Steve's and John's book, that clubs today could use some much needed recognition and encouragement. Some "props" if you will.

The NNA is this State's Club and it needs all of the State's Clubs involved. In doing so, the NNA will once again begin to

fulfill those lofty objectives that it began with, "*of bringing numismatists of Nebraska into closer relations with one another, and of promoting friendly feelings for one another through social intercourse, the interchange of ideas and discussions of mutual interest.*" But how can we do that if we don't know anything about each other?

So, I'm going to ask that you do me, as a greenhorn to this job, a favor. Send me all the interesting or not so interesting facts, tid-bits, anecdotes, and most importantly, current information about your local club. But, please let me know what your club is doing now. (Pictures welcome too!) Good news or bad news. Don't think your club is unimportant. It doesn't matter if you have 1 or 100 members. Let us know what is going on with your club. Don't assume no one is interested or that you don't have anything interesting to share. You may discover that just the opposite is true. There's a whole state of people who share your passion, interest and love of this hobby. Remember, ***"We're all in this together".*** I see on the inside back cover that there are 12 clubs listed with meeting times and locations. So, this is your chance to gloat, boast and get some free advertising. As the saying goes, ***"We may not have it all together, but, together we have it all."***

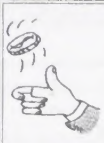
I'm looking forward to hearing from you, working with you and working for you, the members of the NNA.

You can contact me with information about your club, for an article idea or better yet, an article contribution to the ***Journal*** at:

Mitch Ernst / Editor
NNA Journal
P.O. Box 24559
Omaha, NE 68124

or you can email me at: nuMitchmatist@msn.com

Mitch



**Letters to the Editor**

# "The Reverse"

**Just like every coin has 2 sides, so does an opinion. Here's where members share theirs.**

The Journal has received a number of responses to former editor, Larry Lee's *"Drubbing the Clubs"* editorial. Space and redundancy has limited the printing of them all. All letters are the opinions of the letter writers only and are not necessarily those of the Journal, its Editor, the NNA or its Officers.

Dear NNA,

I have to agree with the editor (Larry Lee) that clubs in the state do not do much for the NNA, but drubbing the clubs (Jan-Mar 2008 issue) is not the way to get support. As editor of the NNA for about 20 years, I was responsible for "finding" articles for the Newsletter, but I never belittled the collectors of the state. Originally, the "Journal" was called "The Newsletter", and then voted on to be called the "Coin Husker". But the editor did not like the name, so he changed it. I was not a fan of the name "Coin Husker", but that was what the collectors wanted. As his drubbing indicated that no club in Omaha hosted an NNA Convention in over ten years. The editor is flat wrong! I was the convention chairman in Omaha in 1999 and 2003. To me, that is two times in that last ten years, maybe not enough times hosting the convention, but it is the facts. So, the editor needs to get his facts straight. Being an editor of a coin club publication can be a thankless job, but it does not give the editor the right to drub clubs and collectors of the state. I look forward to having Mitch Ernst as the new editor. The old editor said that Mitch promised him to continue publishing articles directly relating to Nebraska numismatics, that is a great promise. Nebraska numismatics should be highlighted, but the old editor does not have any right in telling Mitch how to do the job of editor.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Drake
NNA, Past President and Editor

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## Letters cont...

Dear NNA Journal:

After reading Mr. Lee's editorial, "Drubbing the Clubs," I am compelled to respond to comments made in the March 2008 ***Journal***.

Allow me to first thank Mr. Lee for his efforts as NNA ***Journal*** editor. Larry had produced 10 issues of the ***Journal***. His most noted achievement was changing the ***Journal*** name from the ***Coin Husker*** to the ***Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal.*** The name change is a very professional uplift in my opinion.

For whatever reason, Mr. Lee's negative attitude has manifested itself via the ***Journal***. I would like to specifically address some of his comments made in the March 2008 ***Journal*** concerning his personal scorecard for Nebraska Coin Clubs and their lack of support. My response centers around comments made about Omaha Coin Club.

First, Omaha Coin Club has hosted an NNA show three times in the past 10 years: 1999, 2003, and 2006. Mr. Lee says we have not hosted one in the last 10 years. Perhaps Mr. Lee should have used all of his "research skills" before printing this statement.

Second, Omaha Coin club currently has two members serving as NNA officers. I guess this is not contributing to the NNA by Mr. Lee's standards.

Third, one of the complaints given to Mr. Lee from "Omaha" came from me. I had expressed my disapproval with his negative attitude about NNA's members and problems after his comments made in the October/November 2006 issue of the NNA ***Journal***. Copies of my disapproval were forwarded to Matt Hansen and Ken Graham at the time.

Last, it is not Mr. Lee's place to direct the new ***Journal*** editor as to the writing style and content he should use. Mr. Ernst should not be forced to print only articles relating to Nebraska Numismatics. Mr. Lee was given a free hand when he became ***Journal*** editor. The same should be allowed to Mr. Ernst. I am submitting two articles to Mr. Ernst to help get him started, one does <u>not</u> relate to Nebraska Numismatics.

Finally, allow me to welcome the new ***Journal*** editor, Mitch Ernst. I highly recommend him for the ***Journal*** editor position. He brings to the table a high level of commitment to numismatics and a positive attitude to the organization. I have seen what he is capable of doing evidenced by Omaha Coin Club's monthly newsletter. It is top notch!! I would match it against any other club newsletter produced in the hobby. Please extend a warm welcome to Mitch!!

Quent Hansen
2nd Vice-President, NNA

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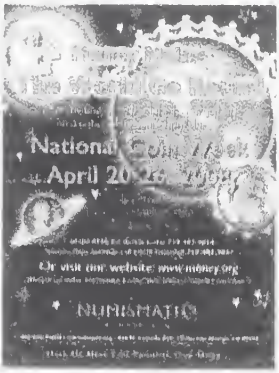
## ANA Presents National Treasure Hunt for 2008 National Coin Week April 20-26




The ANA has created a National Treasure Hunt built around this years theme to help attract new collectors. There are 5 objects needed to complete the treasure hunt:

A coin with an animal
The oldest coin you can find
A coin from a different place (country or state)
A coin from the year you were born
A coin that's not a coin (token, medal, etc.)

Treasure hunters have until April 26 to contact a participating club or the ANA with their coins. Each person who completes the treasure hunt wins a world coin and is entered in a local grand prize drawing for a 2008 State Quarter Proof Set. Everyone across the country who completes the treasure hunt is entered in the ANA national grand prize drawing for a **half-ounce gold coin** and other prizes.

For more information on National Coin Week visit www.money.org and select National Coin Week from the Numismatic Events dropdown menu.

## On-line "Coin"nections

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## Noted Nebraska collector, Byron Reed's(?) 1838 Gobrecht Copper Dollar Pattern sells for $529,000

In the April 2008 edition of *Numismatist* magazine there was an article (page 27) that at the January 7th, 2008 Stack's Franklinton Collection Sale, the late Omaha collector's 1838 proof copper dollar pattern sold for an amazing $529,000. However, there was not a 1838 copper Gobrecht pattern dollar listed in the October 8, 1996 catalogue by Spink America and Christie's of New York which offered items from the Reed collection. Byron Reed isn't even mentioned as a previous owner of the coin that sold at the January '08 Franklinton sale in the online lot description from Stack's.

Coin Photo: © 2008 Stacks, New York

It is amazing how stories and pedigree's can get attached to coins. Maybe that is because coins can't speak for themselves.

Parts of Reed's collection are still on display at the Durham Museum in Omaha.

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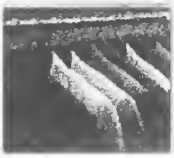

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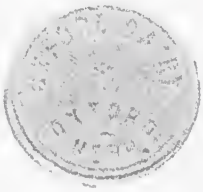

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Remember the song from the '70's "Free Ride"? Well, apparently, the NNA has been offering one. Dues and advertising fees have not been collected by the NNA for the past few years. (If you have recently paid disregard the following. )

-IF you are a NNA Member *please* look at your mailing label. The number above your name represents the year you need to renew. For example; if the number on your label says RM 2008 your dues are due. RM 2007 you are 1 year behind in dues. If it says RM 2003 you are 5 years behind in dues. If that is the case, you have either forgotten to pay, don't know how, when or where to pay or you no longer wish to be members. So, if you desire to continue your NNA Membership, *PLEASE* renew now! Regular Membership is $5 per year $20 for 5 years. You can use the form on the following page. Please note: You do not have to pay back dues!! However, if you do not renew your membership now you will no longer receive the Journal and we know, no one wants that to happen. So, please send your dues to:

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-IF you have been an NNA JOURNAL advertiser, and you wish to continue to be one *PLEASE* state the size of ad you wish to purchase, remit your ad copy and fees (rates are listed at the bottom of page one) to:

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Unpaid advertising will no longer be placed in the Journal.

*Remember, "We're all in this together"* **Thanks!!!**

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## Nebraska Numismatic Association
# Club Directory - Meeting times and locations

**Fremont** - Fremont Coin Club, 3rd Saturday, The Evangelical Free Church Social Hall, 20th & Lincoln Streets, 7:30 pm.

**Grand Island** - Grand Island Coin Club, 1st Monday, Blue Flame Room, Gas Company

**Lincoln** - Lincoln Numismatic Society, 1st Thursday, Hampton Inn, Old Cheney Road and Hwy. 2, 7:30 pm.

**Lincoln** - Lincoln Coin Club, 2nd Thursday, Hampton Inn, Old Cheney Road and Hwy. 2, 7:00 pm.

**Nebraska City** - Nebraska City Coin Club, 3rd Tuesday in Jan/Feb/May/Sept and Nov., Nebraska City Fire Department, 7:00 pm.

**North Platte** - Platte Valley Coin Club, 3rd Tuesday, NPS Co. Blue Flame Room 215 E 5th Street, 7:30 pm.

**Omaha** - Omaha Coin Club, 3rd Friday, Paralyzed Veterans of America, 7612 Maple St., 7:30 pm. YN's 7:00 pm.

**Omaha** - SAC/Midwest Coin Club, 1st Tuesday, Denny's Restaurant, 84th & I-80, 7:00 pm.

**Scottsbluff** - Oregon Trail Coin Club, 2nd Wednesday, McDonald's Office, 511 West 27th, 7:30 pm.

**South Sioux City** - Siouxland Coin Club, write for information, 901 S. Cecelia, Sioux City, Iowa, 51106

**Seward** - Nebraska token Collectors Club, 2nd Sunday, Cattle National Bank, 2:00 pm.

**Wahoo** - Wahoo Coin Club, 1st Saturday, Saunders County Historical Museum, 240 N. Walnut, 8:00 pm.

**→Not responsible for invalid information←**

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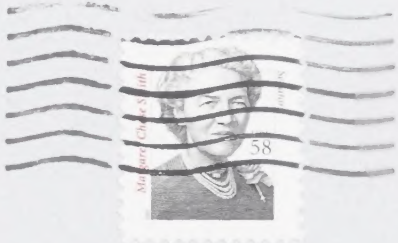

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